

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A transporter to facilitate the movement of a person having impaired or no self-locomotion from a location at a first elevation and location to a laterally spaced-apart location at a higher or lower elevation, comprising:

a base having a recessed portion, a horizontal orientation and a vertical axis;

wheels enabling said base to be moved in said horizontal orientation in any lateral direction relative to said vertical axis, said wheels being freely rotatable around axes parallel to said vertical axis and spaced therefrom;

a platform having an upper surface normal to said axis said surface being planar, smooth, and devoid of any protrusion above said upper surface;

a jack mounted to the recessed portion of said base and below said platform, extending between them so as to enable and power the selective raising or lowering of the platform relative to the base, said jack including a threaded screw having a locking characteristic, whereby to prevent lowering of the platform by its weight and by its weight combined with a load on it, except when the screw is positively turned;

a power source to activate said jack by turning the screw;

a control to enable actuation of said jack by said power source,

whereby said transporter can be moved adjacent to a place where a person is supported, raised or lowered so as slidably to receive said person, wheeled to another location, then raised or lowered to permit the person to be slid onto another place.

14. (Previously Presented) A transporter according to claim 13 in which said planar surface includes a socket and a removable support, said support being insertable into said socket to limit the sliding movement of a person being slidably moved on said surface.

15. (Previously Presented) A transporter according to claim 13 in which a lip depends below said upper surface, for a person to grasp.

16. (Previously Presented) A transporter according claim 13 in which a peripheral skirt is attached to said platform, extending downwardly to enclose said jack, being movable upwardly and downwardly with said platform to shroud said jack from outside contact.

17. (Previously Presented) A transporter according to claim 16 in which said planar surface includes a socket and a removable support, said support being insertable into said socket to limit the sliding movement of a person being slidably moved on said surface.

18. (Previously Presented) A transporter according to claim 17 in which a lip depends below said upper surface, for a person to grasp.

19. (New) A transporter to facilitate the upward and lateral movement of a person, the transporter comprising:

a base;

a plurality of wheels associated with the base such that the base may be moved in any lateral direction;

a laterally extending platform having a substantially smooth upper surface;

a jack, mounted between the base and the platform, adapted to move the platform upwardly and downwardly relative to the base, and including a threaded screw

that prevents lowering of the platform by its weight and by its weight combined with a load on it unless positively turned;

a telescoping enclosure including a first member extending upwardly from the base and defining a first member perimeter that extends around the jack, and a second member extending downwardly from the platform over the first member and defining a second member perimeter that extends around the first member;

a power source adapted to turn the screw; and

a control adapted to actuate the power source.

20. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, wherein the platform defines a platform perimeter and the telescoping enclosure occupies a substantial majority of a volume having a perimeter corresponding to the platform perimeter and extending from the base to the platform.

21. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, wherein the first member includes four vertically extending walls and the second member includes four vertically extending walls.

22. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, wherein the platform defines a platform perimeter and the second member perimeter is smaller than the platform perimeter.

23. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, wherein the wheels are freely rotatable about respective vertical axes.

24. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, wherein the platform includes a planar upper surface devoid of protrusions.

25. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:
means, removably associated with the platform, for restraining movement of a person seated on the platform in at least one direction.

26. (New) A transporter to facilitate the upward and lateral movement of a person, the transporter comprising:

a base;

a plurality of wheels associated with the base such that the base may be moved in any lateral direction;

a laterally extending platform having an upper surface, a lower surface and side edges;

first and second platform surface discontinuities defined by at least one of the upper and lower surfaces at least substantially adjacent to opposing side edges of the platform and configured to held by a human hand;

a jack, mounted between the base and the platform, adapted to move the platform upwardly and downwardly relative to the base, and including a threaded screw that prevents lowering of the platform by its weight and by its weight combined with a load on it unless positively turned;

a power source adapted to turn the screw; and

a control adapted to actuate the power source.

27. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 26, wherein the first and second platform surface discontinuities are located at opposing longitudinal edges.

28. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 26, wherein the first and second platform surface discontinuities extend downwardly from the lower surface of the platform.

29. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 26, wherein the wheels are freely rotatable about respective vertical axes.

30. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 26, wherein the platform includes a planar upper surface devoid of protrusions.

31. (New) A transporter as claimed in claim 26, further comprising:
means, removably associated with the platform, for restraining movement of a person seated on the platform in at least one direction.